

CNC January Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2012

District Council representatives in attendance: Chas Redmond, (CNC Chair); Phil Shack, (North District and CNC Vice-chair); Chris Leman, (Lake Union District and CNC Budget Committee Chair); Ref Lindmark, (Transportation Committee Co-Chair); Jody Grage, (Ballard District); Tony Provine, (Northeast District); Mike Warren, (Magnolia/Queen Anne District); Mathew McBride (Delridge District); Dan Wasell, (North District); Bridgette Maryman, (Southeast District); Rick Klingele, (Northwest District)

Others in Attendance: Councilmember Sally Bagshaw; Legislative Aides Kathy Nyland and Holli Kreji; Pamela Banks, Christa Dumpys, Thomas Whittemore, Ed Pottharst, DON; Pete Spalding, Joe Wert, community members

Agenda and Meeting Minutes Approval

Discussion of number of meetings CNC members were to provide food to CNC meetings via the enhancement fund. Chas will come up with a rotating schedule for CNC members to weigh in on. Minutes to be changed to reflect CNC members to bring food to one meeting per year. Minutes approved with this correction.

Committee Reports

NMF Committee – Chas gave report in Laine's stead. There will be two Small and Simple cycles this year. Due dates are in March and July. There will be no Letter of Intent for Large Projects; rather there will be a mandatory workshop in May for applicants. Due date will be in August. NMF Committee is changing its meeting dates from the third to second Tuesday of the month at Uptown Espresso.

Neighborhood Planning Committee – Chris reported in Irene's stead. There was great attendance at the last committee meeting which featured CM Conlin. He has returned the term "Land Use" to the City Council committee name. Roosevelt rezone was discussed. Puget Sound Regional Council also made a presentation at the meeting. Great Recession has had an effect on initial growth predictions.

Transportation Committee – has held two meetings since the last CNC meeting. CM Rasmussen attended the December meeting. SDOT is still in contraction mode. Debriefed election results. January meeting focused on the snow removal response in the city. City has improved in this regard. Communication between Metro and the city was much better than in the past. Also discussed legislation in Olympia related to transit funding and Metro's upcoming service revisions and outreach meetings. Metro holding numerous meetings for community to give input. Metro's new service guidelines are 1) productivity, 2) social and economic justice and 3) geographic distribution. New RapidRide routes are going to change bus service going downtown. Other routes can be freed up as feeders and to go between neighborhoods.

Budget Committee, Chris Leman – Thanks to everyone who helped out with the Budget Conference. Seattle Channel taped much of the conference and break-out sessions. CM Burgess will be the guest of the next Budget Committee meeting on February 8. Major topic will be how CNC can help engage the public earlier in the budget process. CNC member asked for clarification around the budget process. Chris stated CNC meets the Monday of the Mayor's budget speech in September and is briefed on the new budget recommendations at that meeting. In 2006 Mayor Nickels began work on more public involvement in CIP projects. More work remains to be done.

CM Sally Bagshaw – City Council Chair of Parks and Neighborhoods Committee

Change in name of committee to reflect community's love of their neighborhoods and parks. People want safe, green, connected neighborhoods. Neighborhood District Coordinators play a vital role. Community people would like to know police in their community better.

Parks Department has suffered 17% reduction. Have worked to keep community centers open. Focused on most used centers. Reduced hours to those most in demand in the community. Also worked with other organizations who wanted to use the centers and were willing to pay for use.

CM Bagshaw suggested a 3 times per year review of passed legislation, as she said was done years ago with rotating city council members.

CM Bagshaw opened up conversation around CNC. While she feels the CNC members bring passion and intelligence to the CNC, she would like to see more voices included and have a clearer sense of the goals of the CNC. She would like to visit the district councils early, along with other City Council members, to hear their concerns. Sally Bagshaw stated that sometimes city employees have not succeeded in showing the community member that they had been heard.

Seattle City Council member Sally Bagshaw suggested that the CNC/DCs ask themselves a question... "What is your purpose & what do you want to accomplish?"

CNC member stated that she felt discussion and adoption of best practices used at district councils would be helpful and good use of CNC.

CNC member stated the SE District Council had a recent discussion about its role and mission as well.

CM Bagshaw asked her to imagine what goals would be if money were no object.

CNC member responded that having a cohesive vision/direction would be #1 goal. Would be nice to have clear direction from the city on what it wants from the district councils.

Kathy Nyland stated that these were issues when she chaired the CNC as well. District Council audit findings have not really been addressed.

CNC member stated the city could make better use of the CNC. CNC often feels disconnected from the city. Would like more involvement and connection with city. Should be communicating with the city on a regular and intimate basis.

CM Bagshaw asked if CNC wanted city to do something for it, or if CNC could do on its own?

Chas responded yes to both!

City has "hands-off" approach to CNC/district councils.

District Councils utilized to get information out; sometimes get positive feedback, other times feel neglected by the city. Don't want to just be lip service.

District Council and CNC is a grass-roots system; not appointed by the Mayor. Can both be information sharers and advocates.

CM Bagshaw stated it would be good to encourage new members to join district councils and CNC.

CNC member asked CM Bagshaw what her vision was for DON? How would she strengthen it?

CM Bagshaw stated the department has suffered from budget cuts, but new district coordinator system is working well. She will work to support the department and its budget.

CNC member asked what is being done around the original neighborhood plans?

CM Bagshaw stated they would try to do what they could with limited resources.

Comment: might be time to look at the CNC bylaws and update

Capturing District Experiences, Rick Klingele

Proposal to share experiences as they come up. Advertise CNC as subject experts. Websites are good, but need to be kept updated. Working on cleaning up the CNC site. Need to be able to share committee information on-line. Can also use blogs. Will continue to work on this over the year. Have been encouraging the city to establish district council web sites. CNC member stated the issue is not creating a web site, but keeping it up to date.

Leadership Institute Curriculum Presentation, Christa Dumpys

DON has a history of providing leadership training. A team of district coordinators, along with Kerry Wade, Neighborhood Plan Update Outreach Coordinator, have been working on creating a new curriculum/program around leadership training. Institute will be launched in April. Targeting emerging leaders. Will be a participatory model. There will be seven sessions, one session monthly. A range of topics will be included. Hoping to have around 30 students. Also looking for advisory board members and instructors/facilitators. Would like to have two members per district council. Pamela stated this year is a pilot project, and hope is to expand the program next year.

CNC member stated concern that CNC was not consulted around curriculum and also felt it was not inclusive enough. Would like to have tutorials available on the web.

Thomas Whittemore responded at this point, it is only a pilot and could eventually be available on-line.

CNC member stated he was very glad staff had taken the initiative to create this curriculum and program. He agreed that young people need to be encouraged to become the new leaders.

CNC member stated he had taken the city's leadership training. An issue is keeping young people involved after the training.

Thomas Whittemore stated that part of the assignments for students would be to take on a Small Sparks project.

Pamela stated they had met with the Mayor's Office around their training and got Mayor's Office approval. Several Mayor's Office staff have volunteered to work with the program.

CNC member stated it was a good idea to begin as a pilot and be flexible. Good to have a people to people opportunity, rather than relying on the internet.

CNC member asked for a sheet with criteria so he could share with district council.

CNC member stated this would be a great opportunity for CNC members to share expertise as mentors.

CNC rated leadership training as one of the highest priorities for district coordinators when asked last year.

CNC member stated that bonds created within a small group setting were far more likely to endure than just opening up to everyone, or sharing information on-line.

CNC member stated curriculum could be published on web and could perhaps audit classes, but small class sessions was the correct way to go.

CNC member stated speakers could also be video-taped and shared with a larger audience.

Debrief of Seattle 2012 Budget Conference

Attendance was lower than in the past. A member stated that she shied away from attending as it seemed to her that it wasn't something that she could just attend one part of. Seattle Times included a box on the front page of its regional news sections, as well as being announced on the Mayor's blog, DON's blog, etc. However, publicity was late in getting out. City Hall Open House being held the day before may also have reduced attendance.

CNC member stated that if city wants CNC to put on this type of event, it needs to back up with funding and support.

Pamela responded that DON was happy to assist, but it is a CNC-driven event, and DON did not get materials from CNC to distribute in time to get the word out early.

CNC member stated location in NW Rooms was not as easy for people to find as the Center House was in previous years.

Discussion over change in wording from "citizen" to "community" in regard to city's IOPE guidelines.

CNC chair stated will use lessons learned to improve next budget conference.

Though on the agenda, the CNC Work Plan was not covered, as its allotted time had been used by other subjects

Meeting adjourned.